



Dublin City University
School of Law and Government
Centre for Climate and Society

SFI Co-Centre for Climate+ Biodiversity + Water PhD scholarship

Project title:
**Strengthening governance and policy for climate, biodiversity and water on
the island of Ireland**

Dublin City University (www.dcu.ie) is a research-intensive, globally-engaged, dynamic institution. With 5 Faculties and 24 Schools, DCU is distinguished by both the quality and impact of its graduates and its focus on the translation of knowledge into societal and economic benefit. DCU has over 20,000 students spread across three academic campuses in the Glasnevin-Drumcondra area of North Dublin. Thanks to its innovative approach to teaching and learning, the University offers a transformative student experience that helps to develop highly sought-after graduates. Excellence in its education and research activities has led to its consistent position in the rankings of the world's top young universities. For example, DCU has been ranked 59th worldwide in the Times Higher Young University rankings for 2024.

DCU's School of Law and Government is a research active school with world-class faculty. It ranks in the top 200 departments in the world for Political Science worldwide. The School has a rigorous structured PhD programme and a vibrant, international cohort of almost 50 PhD students.

The DCU Centre for Climate and Society is Ireland's first academic research centre devoted to promoting perspectives on climate change from the social sciences and humanities. The mission of the Centre is to shape and support societal responses to climate change in Ireland and around the world. There are three interdependent pillars to our work: our research activities; our teaching; and our engagement and outreach. The Centre's research, education, and engagement activities start from the premise that the solutions to climate change are available, and that the blocks to action are to be found in social processes and dynamics. The Centre examines how different social arenas such as politics, media, education, business and policy can influence climate action.

The PhD project

Land-use policy and governance play a key role in achieving a Paris-aligned, biodiversity-rich, and prosperous society. Brexit will likely reduce the alignment of land use policy and governance in Ireland and Northern Ireland, posing risks for environmental outcomes across a range of domains including climate, biodiversity and water quality, creating a complex regulatory context for businesses and undermining investor confidence. Against this backdrop the central aim of this PhD project is to analyze trends in land-use regulatory and governance arrangements on the island of Ireland, develop scenario-based analysis of risks associated with policy and governance divergence, and identify potential approaches to mitigate such risks. The project will also focus on the theme of just transitions, and how these can be enabled through strengthened policy and governance frameworks across the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.

The position

This is a full time PhD position within the newly established Co-Centre for Climate + Biodiversity + Water and funded by Science Foundation Ireland. The Co-Centre brings together 14 higher education and research institutions across Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain, with the vision to be a home of research, innovation, and policy development across the interlinked challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and water.

The scholarship will provide a stipend of EUR 22,000 per annum and will cover EU fees, both for four years. Some funding for research equipment, materials, fieldwork, and conference travel will also be provided.

The PhD student will be supervised by Dr. Diarmuid Torney and Dr Goran Dominioni in the School of Law and Government. The student will be provided with training in research design, as well as qualitative and quantitative research methods, and will be given the opportunity to undertake other coursework as appropriate, and to develop relevant transferrable skills. They will be encouraged to attend international conferences. In accordance with DCU regulations for PhD students, the PhD student will be subject to an annual progress review. Progression will be dependent on demonstration of satisfactory performance.

Requirements

The successful candidate is required to:

- Hold a Master's degree in political science, law, public administration, economics, environmental studies, or a cognate discipline (or equivalent) with first class honours or high second class honours;
- Have a demonstrated understanding of climate change, biodiversity and/or water politics and policy;
- Have excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Pre-existing knowledge of Irish and UK politics and policy is an asset;

- Relevant professional experience is an asset.

Closing date 14 June 2024

Informal enquiries to: Dr. Diarmuid Torney, Associate Professor, School of Law and Government: diarmuid.torney@dcu.ie and Dr. Goran Dominioni, Assistant Professor, School of Law and Government: goran.dominioni@dcu.ie.

Application procedure: Applications should be submitted by email to louise.laing@dcu.ie using the subject line “Co-Centre for Climate + Biodiversity + Water PhD scholarship” and include:

- One-page motivation letter explaining the candidate’s interest in pursuing a PhD on this topic;
- Curriculum vitae listing academic qualifications, research experience, and publications;
- Sample of written work (2,000–4,000 words);
- Copy of the highest degree obtained and transcript of academic grades;
- Contact details of at least two references.

Interviews: Week commencing 24 June 2024

Start date: 9 September 2024

Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer